

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** *(Three minute time limit)*
- 4. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
- 5. RECONSIDERATION**
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA** *All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks & Recreation Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Parks & Recreation Commissioner or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.*
  - A. Minutes for the Special Meeting on November 6, 2014 **Page 3**
- 5. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**
  - A. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planning Director **Page 9**
  - B. Parks Maintenance/Project Updates - Angie Otteson/Carey Meyer **Page 11**
  - C. Community Recreation - Mike Illg
  - D. Needs Assessment Report - Matt Steffy/Julie Engebretsen
- 6. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 7. PENDING BUSINESS**
  - A. Discussion on Lists of Thank Yous to Organizations, Volunteers and Additional Persons **Page 15**
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Public Safety Building Site Selection - Discussion on the Recommendation to Council **Page 19**
  - B. Seafarer's Memorial Parking Lot Extension Project **Page 21**
  - C. Town Center - A Vital Component to Linking Alternate Travel Routes Through the City of Homer **Page 23**
  - D. Outdated Senior Fitness Course - Discussion and Recommendation on Donation to West Homer Elementary **Page 25**
  - E. Discussion on Establishing an Annual Parks and Recreation Convention in Homer **Page 27**
- 9. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
  - A. Commission Annual Calendar **Page 31**
  - B. Commissioner Attendance Schedule At Council Meetings **Page 33**
  - C. Baycrest Overlook Gateway Project - Update **Page 35**
  - D. Public Comments received on Bishop's Beach **Page 37**
  - E. Reappointment of Commissioner Lowney **Page 41**
  - F. Memorandum to Council Re: Beach Policy Task Force **Page 45**
  - G. Memorandum to Council Re: 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule Approval **Page 49**
- 10. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** *(If one has been assigned)*
- 12. COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 19, 2014 at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska**



Session 14-11 a Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on November 6, 2014 at 5:30 pm by Chair Matt Steffy at the Cowles Council Chambers City Hall located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, BRANN AND LILLIBRIDGE

STUDENT REP: PEDRO OCHOA

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER ROEDL (EXCUSED)

STAFF: MARK ROBL, CHIEF OF POLICE  
JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY PLANNER  
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

### PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

There were fourteen who testified on the vehicular damage being done to the beach and slough vegetation and bird habitat, future erosion issues, unlawful acts from noise to illegal drinking and drug use, trespassing and damage to private property, and too much dog feces and unleashed pets, on or around Bishops Beach and the park in Old Town Homer. There were many who advocated that it may be time to close the beach to vehicles for the safety of people and the future of the beach.

### VISITORS

A. Marianne Aplin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Manager, Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

Ms. Aplin recognized previous efforts to change behaviors on the beach but they would like to work in partnership with the city in addressing some of those behaviors that also include educational aspects. She noted the physical barriers put up by one resident and the resulting increase in vegetation on their property. Ms. Aplin pointed out that she did not like those barriers when the property owners installed them but seeing the increase in the vegetation makes her appreciate those efforts more. Ms. Aplin also noted the Beach Policy while wonderful is not enforceable and due to the lack of appropriate staff any new regulations would still be hard to enforce. The Visitors Center was not a part of the first committees that worked on the Beach Policy but the city has the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's attention now and definitely 133 bird species gets their attention. The Visitor Center is an administrative site for the Refuge which covers from the tip of the Aleutians across the Gulf of Alaska up to the Chukchi Sea so they do not do monitoring. There are very active groups regarding birding plus the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve which does some monitoring in the bay.

There were brief comment from the commission regarding participation in the very first committee in 2001 and Ms. Aplin responded to questions regarding statistics on visitors needing assistance. They have had a few but the most popular activities are walks along the beach which is hard to do dodging vehicles.

Commissioner Lillibridge kept bringing focus to the increase in incidents that required police intervention.

Ms. Aplin also did not advocate for installing more lighting especially since they have such extended daylight in the summer months.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about the amount of resources that they could expect from US Fish & Wildlife regarding protecting the storm berm and signage. Ms. Aplin responded with example of the Beluga Slough Trail rehabilitation and would definitely be willing to work with the city regarding education. She also reported seeing people training their dogs in the slough which they would like to see stop as soon as possible.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items for reconsideration.

## **ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes for the regular meeting of September 18, 2014

Chair Steffy requested a motion for adoption of the consent agenda.

LILLIBRIDGE/MACCAMPBELL - MOVED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

## **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

Ms. Engebretsen reminded the commission on the upcoming P.A.R.C Open House next Thursday at 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no items scheduled for this meeting.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Memorandum from Deputy City Planner re: Bishops Beach Issues

Ms. Engebretsen provided a brief direction and outcome that came from the worksession held on October 16, 2014. She recommended that they can work on this through the commission, hold a couple of public hearings on proposed changes to the Beach Policy or the commission could recommend establishing a committee or task force to work on the issues for a few months and submit the recommendations to the Commission which could then forward the recommended changes to Council for approval.

Commissioner Lowney moved that they recommend working on the changes to the Beach Policy to address issues happening at Bishops Beach. She did not want to push the issue around but to deal with it. She also wanted to strike the Improve lighting from the recommendations in the memorandum. Commissioner Lillibridge seconded that motion.

Commissioner Brann supported that direction but wanted to form a task force to come up with recommendations for Bishops Beach, he believed it was the critical area, and maybe add Mariner Park since there are some problems there too.

Commissioner MacCampbell wanted to include Mud Bay and felt that some of the solutions for Bishops Beach would address Mud Bay too.

Commissioner Lowney agreed with those statements but in her opinion Mud Bay was not as critical.

Commissioner Archibald advocated for reviewing the whole Beach Policy and reviewing all the areas that required it especially those sections that would directly affect Bishops Beach, and other beaches.

Chair Steffy liked the idea of reviewing the whole policy but focusing on the Bishops Beach area. He inquired if they needed a formal motion.

There was direction from staff that the commission needs to determine exactly what they want the task force to do and who they want on the task force in order to provide Council with a good reason for creation of a task force.

The commissioners discussed at length the pros and cons of reviewing and changing specific areas of the Beach Policy as it effects Bishops Beach, including additional areas that have similar uses and problems or the whole policy.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE BEACH POLICY TO ADDRESS ISSUES THAT AFFECT BISHOPS BEACH.

There was additional discussion on various aspects for reasons not to review the whole policy and why the focus should be only on Bishops Beach with a caveat of addressing vehicular use on additional beaches such as Mariner Park and along the spit. The concern was if you blocked vehicles from Bishops Beach they are going to have problems on other beaches. It was remarked that they did not want to become Southcentral Alaska Recreational Area for Off Road vehicles. Further clarification was attempted by the Chair on the motion to create the task force and what they were tasked to do. There was still hesitation from the commission on including the whole beach policy or just sections that applied to the issues at Bishops Beach.

Commissioner Lillibridge advocated for collecting data on the vehicular use of the beach. She reported her experience with city parks and beaches in Florida on a recent vacation. She also noted that people in Homer may enjoy their free style of living but when those lifestyles infringe upon others then it is time to restrict the uses.

Commissioner Archibald stated that he knows if they close Bishops Beach then those people will go to other areas and he doesn't want that to happen.

Commissioner MacCampbell pointed out that there are limited accesses to the beaches but that they must protect that berm. He went on to cite the accesses in Ninilchik, Whiskey Gulch, Anchor Point and sending the behaviors up the road.

Commissioner Lowney further advocated on points in dealing with one beach at a time and that they can wait to address the next areas.

Commissioner Brann commented on the historical discussions that took place in the earlier Beach Committees regarding pedestrian priority and the value establishing then the absolute demarcation for vehicles.

Further comments and responses agreed with the eventual follow-up of the other beaches, the negative NO signage in other cities, giving the police department something that they can enforce, the benefits that the habitat provides for users who use the beach appropriately. Additional examples of instances where inappropriate behavior was conducted alongside lawful behavior was given by commissioners.

STEFFY/BRANN - MOVED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE CONCERNS BROUGHT TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE INCREASED ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES ON BISHOPS BEACH AND THE IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF HOMER THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE BEACH POLICY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES FOR BISHOPS BEACH AND LIKE OR SIMILAR AREAS.

Commissioner Lillibridge asked if Chief Robl could respond in regards to the motion and the issues that have been brought up. She wanted the wording of the motion to be specific to Homer. Chair Steffy responded regarding enforcement. Staff recommended passing the motion then they can discuss framing what they want the task force to accomplish and the time frame.

Commissioner Lillibridge requested the motion to be read back from the clerk. Due to all the changes and suggestions the clerk was unable to read the motion. Ms. Krause stated that the commission wanted the Beach Policies amended to address the issues at Bishops Beach. There were commissioners who also wanted to amend the policies to cover additional areas where the same activities occur. Ms. Krause then stated the motion could be simplified to read as follows:

MOVED TO REQUEST COUNCIL FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE BEACH POLICY AS IT APPLIES TO THE ISSUES AT BISHOPS BEACH AND LIKE OR SIMILAR AREAS OR PLACES.

Chair Steffy and Commissioner Archibald moved and seconded that motion as stated by staff.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. LILLIBRIDGE, BRANN, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD.

Motion carried.

The Commissioners agreed that they would like to see a member of council, the Chief of Police or his representative, a Parks and Recreation commissioner, a resident or adjacent property owner, a business owner from Old Town area of Homer, a birder, and a non-resident user on the task force.

The commission would like to have the Task Force bring back recommendations and amendments by or before May 10, 2015. They can invite a member of the US Fish and Wildlife and the Research Reserve as expert testimony.

There was additional discussion regarding the task force would not report to the commission but to the Council. The commission would be represented by the Commissioner appointed to the Task Force.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Memorandum from the City Clerk re: 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule

Chair Steffy stated he would entertain a motion approving the schedule.

MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2015 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE CITY CLERK.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, BRANN, LILLIBRIDGE AND ARCHIBALD

Motion carried.

#### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

A. Commission Annual Calendar

B. Commissioner Attendance Schedule at Council Meeting

There was no discussion or comments on the informational materials.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

Roberta Highland commented that the formation of the task force will remove control of the decisions from the commission. She emphasized that the Council does listen to the commissions and their recommendations. Ms. Highland also noted that she did not comment on other beach issues since this meeting was focused on Bishop's Beach. She would be interested to know the number of calls the police receive issues at Mariner Park. The only reason they have the number of calls for Bishops Beach is that a group was formed by residents and thank goodness that they did get organized. There are some good ideas like closing the east end portion of the beach and putting barriers up and getting dogs on leashes that will help.

### COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Engebretsen commented that things are going well with the needs assessment and she should have more information and will include information from the meeting next week for the next regular meeting. There will be a formal presentation at the November 24, 2014 Council meeting. There is a Public Safety Building meeting on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The meeting at the Visitors Center is from 6-8 p.m. next Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>. She has been very busy with all the different focus groups.

Ms. Krause will check with the City Clerk regarding getting the request for the Task Force before Council on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is present)*

There were no council members present.

### COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lillibridge commented that she had decided to resign from the commission but with this issue of Bishop's Beach on the table now she wanted to see this through so she was going to stay on and informed Ms. Krause that she was withdrawing her resignation. She tried to get one or two comments from everyone who spoke tonight. She will also be at the next Council meeting.

Commissioner Brann commented on the other Beach Task Force and that it was a long drawn out process due to several opposite opinions but believe it is critical to getting Bishop's Beach addressed and it is time again to review the policy.

Student Commissioner Ochoa commented that he was going to recommend no vehicles on the beach but it appeared that the commission had it under control. he further commented on the size of the vehicles and not seeing some of the little kids. He would hate to see someone seriously injured or worse.

Commissioner MacCampbell stated that it is resolvable and you have to get the public in three ways with good interpretative signage and also what they cannot do, there is no need to have a uniform sitting down there but you need to let them know what you can and cannot do. They can move logs to block access and post signs; he further noted that the current Beach Policy document is nice but it does lack teeth. He thanked Renee he knows she puts in a lot hours and does a lot for them and Julie, thank you for everything that is put in the packet for them.

Commissioner Lowney stated that the Council meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> will also have the Woodard Creek presentation so there will be a lot that night; she hoped that what they did tonight is dealing with the issues appropriately; even if what they put teeth into Chief Robl will probably be unable to do anything anyway and she is ready to see that beach closed; she is a frequent visitor to that beach and even today with only 10 feet of beach they ended up in the water because a truck was headed right towards them, but then another truck came in and spun out right there in the lower parking area.

Commissioner Archibald hopes it works out as they envision. Thanks to staff. He did note that at the worksession they suggested putting a gate and limiting hours because unless they increase the police budget there is not much they can do.

### COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Steffy stated that it will be interesting to watch and learn since he does not have much experience with this side of the bay and does not visit that park or beach. He related some experiences with parks and limiting access to certain areas using time frames and gates. He believes that education can go a long ways. He appreciated everyone getting in an extra meeting in this month and thanked the staff also for everything they do.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Steffy adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next **REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2014** at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_





## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Planning  
491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[Planning@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:Planning@ci.homer.ak.us)  
(p) 907-235-3106  
(f) 907-235-3118

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
From: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner  
Date: November 13, 2014  
Subject: November Staff Report

### Commission Calendar Items

For the month of November, there are two items on the calendar. Staff did not put them on the agenda for this month, because they are not ready for any action. The first item is the strategic plan: last year we postponed this item pending the completion of the Needs Assessment. We should revisit the Commission's Strategic Plan after the needs assessment is complete (April/May meeting?) The second item is a review of the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan & Progress. I'd like to invite Dan or Carey from PW to talk about what has been completed at the park this fall with the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. I think we should have a clear picture of what is done, and not done, so we can then prioritize and move forward. I would recommend this for the February or March agenda.

**Abandoned vehicles** –Chief Robl to attend a meeting in February or March to provide overview of what HPD does when there are abandoned vehicles on city property, in the right of way, and on private property.

### Upcoming City Council Meetings on 11/24

Committee of the Whole 5 PM: 2015 Budget, and Beach Policy task force.

Regular Meeting: Needs Assessment presentation, Beach Policy task force recommendation, and purchase of the Roger's Loop trailhead, as presented in the draft 2015 budget.

**Attachments:** Public Works Fall 2014 Project Update



Where the Land Ends and the Sea Begins



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Planning  
491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[Planning@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:Planning@ci.homer.ak.us)  
(p) 907-235-3106  
(f) 907-235-3118

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
From: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician  
Date: October 10, 2014

### October Staff Report

#### Staff Activities

##### Safe Routes to School

I have been busy working on a Safe Routes to School grant. The project would begin after the first of the year, and involves a written plan to increase the safety and number of K-8 students that walk or bike to school. Council approved a resolution to request \$15,000 in funding for the project on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

##### Needs Assessment

Myself and Travis (planning clerk) have been working on the launch of the Park, Art Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment. The project website is up, and the community survey is open. You can find information on the City of Homer Parks and Recreation website. Please take a moment to take the survey! Paper copies are also available at a few places in town, including City Hall. There is a community meeting scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>, at Islands and Oceans, where the preliminary results of the community survey will be discussed.

If you are attending the Les Mis production at the High School, please take a few minutes to help distribute postcards about the needs assessment after the show. Extra post cards can be found on the Community Rec office door in the commons.

The draft 2015 budget will be released at Monday's Council meeting. I will provide an update at your meeting on Thursday.

# STATUS REPORT - CAPITAL PROJECTS

## City of Homer - Public Works Department – October 2014

The following projects have been completed this year or are under construction:

**Homer Natural Gas Main Extensions** – The second (and final) year's construction of the gas mains is complete. Gas services are being installed until cold weather stops any trenching efforts.

**City Building Conversions to Natural Gas** – City buildings served by the second year gas main extensions (Water Treatment Plant and the Restrooms/Harbor Maintenance Shop on the Spit) will be completed this year. Conversions at the water treatment plant are complete; Spit facilities are now being converted. This will complete all conversion authorized by the City Council.



**Harbormaster Overslope Construction**

**Harbormaster's Office Building Replacement** – Ground was broken this summer for the new Harbormaster's Office. Currently the building enclosure is being completed, which will allow the interior work to be completed this winter. Site work, including paving, will be completed this year. Art work has been selected and artists have received their notice to proceed. Grand Opening – May, 2015.

**Harbor Float Replacement** – This project, is funded 50% by State grant; 50% by City bond proceeds, bid this Spring; material arrived in August and much of the improvements planned for the west side of the harbor

have been completed. This coming spring, System 4 improvements will be installed. The work provides improved floats in the Small Boat Harbor, including A, J, R, and S float replacement and utility improvements (on the west side of the harbor); and System 4 improvements including portions of AAA float and HH and JJ float replacement with utility improvements (on the east side). All work will be complete by Summer 2015.



**New Floats in Storage**

**Ramp 3 Replacement** – The project is also funded 50% by State grant; 50% by City bond proceeds. The work consists of the removal of the existing approach trestle and ramp and construction of a new shorted trestle and longer covered ramp. This work is now substantially complete.



**New Ramp 3 Being Installed**

**System 5 Electrical Improvements** – The project is funded 50% by State grant; 50% by City bond proceeds. The work provides improved water and electrical service to the large commercial vessels that moor at this facility. This improvement will provide more dependable connections.



**New Electrical Pedestal**

**DWD Trail/Cruise Ship Bus Staging Area** – This work is funded by cruise ship passenger head tax revenues. The work is substantially complete and consists of improvements at the Deepwater Dock approach, including staging area striping and signage; and paving of a trail from the staging area, along the east side of the small boat harbor, past the load and launch ramp to Homer Spit Road. Also included in this project are timber overlooks, benches, perimeter banners, interpretive signing and 1% for art installations. A restroom, guard shack and shelter were constructed last year at the Deepwater Dock approach.

## STATUS REPORT - CAPITAL PROJECTS

**Spit Trail Extension** –This work is also funded by cruise ship passenger head tax revenues (but provided through ADOT). The work is substantially complete and consists of improvements to the End of the Road Park, including parking area paving, striping and signage; and paving of a trail from the Park, back toward the Small Boat Harbor and along the east side of the small boat harbor to the Freight Dock Road/ Homer Spit Road intersection. Also included in this project are timber overlooks, benches, perimeter banners, interpretive signing and 1% for art installations. A restroom was constructed last year at the End of the Road Park.



Overlook near the Fish Dock



New Spit Boardwalk

**Spit Trail Boardwalk Replacement Project** – This project was completed early this summer and consists of replacing the wooden boardwalk along the Small Boat Harbor between Ramp 1 and 3. The new boardwalk is wider than the old one; and includes overlooks with picnic tables and benches. This work is funded by cruise ship passenger head tax revenues provided through ADOT.

**Coal Point Trail** - This work is funded by cruise ship passenger head tax revenues. The work is substantially complete and consists of paving of a trail from Homer Spit Road (near the Ice Dock Road intersection) over to the Bay; along the Bay (near the Small Boat Harbor entrance) to Coal Point Park. Also included in this project is interpretive signing. Riprap shore protection installed last year along the trail alignment allowed for permanent trail improvements to be constructed and erosion of the beach was eliminated.



**Harbor Entrance Shore Protection Improvements** –This shore protection will solve shore erosion problem and allow for the Coal Point Trail to be constructed (providing access from the proposed Spit Trail to Coal Point Park). This work is funded by cruise ship passenger head tax revenues provided through ADOT.



**City Beautification Project** – The Parks and Recreation Department has again this year provided thousands of plants for City flower beds and local business barrels and planting areas.

**Skyline Satellite Fire Station** – The new fire station, located at the Water Treatment Plant, is substantially complete. The new building includes four vehicle storage bays, and a small office and restroom. This year there will be no fire-fighting equipment stored outside and all equipment will be ready to respond to any emergency.



New Skyline Station

**Karen Hornaday Park Shelter Relocation** –This work was completed early this summer and consisted of moving the old shelter to a new foundation in between the ball fields. This work was the initial effort associated with Phase II of the current Park improvement projects.



Relocated Shelter

**Karen Hornaday Park Campground/Trail Improvements** – This project is funded by a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant, with a 50% match requirement, represents the second phase of the current Park improvement projects. The project is substantially complete. The project consists of constructing a looped trail around the back of the first upper ball field, providing access for maintenance equipment and pedestrians to the second upper



## STATUS REPORT - CAPITAL PROJECTS

ball field and the relocated shelter. The project also consists of providing improvements to the campground – completing drainage improvements, capping all access roads with gravel, capping all camping parking spaces, improving campgrounds one and two to meet ADA requirements, and providing electrical service to the campground host site.

**Sewer Treatment Plant Headworks Intake Screen Replacement** – The original treatment plant headworks (screening and solids removal at the beginning of the sewer treatment process) upgrade was completed this year to facilitate better treatment and replace aging equipment.

**Airport Underground Fuel Tank Removal** – Completing the conversion of the airport terminal to natural gas was the removal of the underground fuel tank that previously served the facility. Removal of underground tanks eliminates the potential liability associated with operating underground tanks and the potential for groundwater contamination.



**Airport Tank Removed**



**Beluga Slough Sign**

**Beluga Slough Trail Interpretive Signing** – Six interpretive signs were placed along the Beluga Slough Trail. These signs reflect the poetry of Wendy Erd, writer and story facilitator, and provide the trail user with inspiration and education about the wetland environment of the slough, and the plants and wildlife that make it home. The last portion of plastic trail is scheduled to be replaced next spring

**Old Town Pedestrian Improvements** – This project is complete and consisted of restriping Bunnell Avenue (from Main to Beluga Place) to narrow vehicle lanes, provide for a pedestrian walkway along the south side of the street; installation of 15 MPH speed limit signs; paint crosswalks at three locations (with signage); pave the Bishop's Beach parking lot; and construct a portion of trail along Charles Way. The intent of this project was to slow vehicular traffic and provides safer pedestrian access in the Old Town area.



**Bunnell St. Safety Improvements**

**Bishop's Beach Parking Lot Paving** – This trailhead parking lot was paved using Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (HART) funds. The improvements increased the convenience of beach access, reduced maintenance, and increased parking efficiency.



**Bishop's Beach Parking Pavement**



**Charles Way Trail Connection**

**Charles Way Trail Improvement** – a short section of trail, connecting access improvements already in place to the Beluga Place right-of-way (near the Bishop's Beach Park) was connected to increase pedestrian access in the Old Town neighborhood.

## STATUS REPORT - CAPITAL PROJECTS

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**The following projects were designed this summer:**

New Water Storage Tank  
Shellfish Water Main Extension  
Kachemak Drive (Phase III) Water Main Extension  
Homer Spit Cast Iron Water Main Replacement  
PRV Replacement/Micro Hydro Turbine Installation  
Seafarer's Memorial Parking Lot

**The design of the following projects is anticipated to begin soon:**

Feasibility Study – Deep Water Dock Expansion  
Homer Spit Barge Haul Out Facility  
Chip Pad Runoff Water Quality Improvements



## City of Homer

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### Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2014  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON LISTS OF THANK YOUS TO ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEERS  
AND ADDITIOANL PERSONS

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Commissioner Lowney requested this item on the agenda at the last regular meeting. She requested each commissioner to bring in a list of names they would like recognized.





## Renee Krause

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**From:** Angie Otteson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2014 9:53 AM  
**To:** Renee Krause  
**Subject:** RE: Volunteer Recognition

So it was NOT the Methodist Church. Homer Assembly of God, volunteers up from Greenville, South Carolina. Greg Newell is the contact.

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**From:** Renee Krause  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2014 9:17 AM  
**To:** Angie Otteson  
**Subject:** RE: Volunteer Recognition

WOW!

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**From:** Angie Otteson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2014 8:54 AM  
**To:** Renee Krause  
**Subject:** RE: Volunteer Recognition

OK! Here goes...

- \*Francie Roberts Natural Resources class---transplanting in the greenhouse
- \*Church on the Rock (Calvin Ralph)---spring clean-up at Hornaday Park--painted playground equipment, picnic tables, restroom and conex; moved sand and woodchips, trash pick up
- \*Elders from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Elder Jolley as contact) (10 total)--Mariner Park installed campsite markers and stained gazebo.
- \*Homer Methodist Church (pretty sure it was the Methodist Church but let me double check)---rehab the garden in Superintendents Park, clean and stain deck at the Firehall corner, pruned shrubs there and in WKFL, weeding.
- \*Homer Rotary--Ben Walters Park
- \*Best Beginnings---Bayview Park
- \*Baycrest Park---The Emblem Club, The Garden Club, Tracy Asselin/Baycrest Greenhouse, Carey & Terry Meyer
- \*People who donated to Homer Beautification---The Emblem Club, Picture Alaska (Linda Haines) , KPC Kachemak Bay Campus, Coastal Realty (Lisa & Art Swisher), Capt's Coffee (Ty Gates), Fireweed Gallery (Irene Randolph), SPH Long Term Care (Susan Hubbard)

That should be good to get them started...I'll let you know for sure on the Methodist Church, and others that come up.

Angie

---

**From:** Renee Krause  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2014 11:05 AM  
**To:** Tricia Lillibridge ([tricialillibridge@gmail.com](mailto:tricialillibridge@gmail.com)); Roger MacCampbell ([kbayranger@gmail.com](mailto:kbayranger@gmail.com)); Robert Archibald; [peter.roedl@gmail.com](mailto:peter.roedl@gmail.com); Matt Steffy  
**Cc:** Angie Otteson; Carey Meyer  
**Subject:** Volunteer Recognition  
**Importance:** High

Commissioner Deb Lowney is putting together the list for the Commissions personal thank you for all you've done for Parks & Rec Card please submit names and addresses to me as soon as possible since she would like to get this taken care of as soon as possible.

Thanks for your cooperation!

*Sincerely,*

*Renee Krause*  
Deputy City Clerk I  
City of Homer  
491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
Ph. 907-235-8121 ext 2224  
Fax 907-235-3143  
[rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us)

*All Correspondence sent from this email address can possibly be available for public inspection.  
Please note some correspondence is confidential in nature and if you have received this in error please contact the sender as soon as possible so we can correct the contact information we have on file.*

**"The Secret of Change is to Focus All of Your Energy Not on Fighting the Old, But Building the New" - Socrates**



## City of Homer

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[clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2014  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING SITE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

---

Commissioner Lowney requested this item on the agenda . Following is an excerpt from the memorandum to council regarding the site recommendation.

*At the September 24, 2014 meeting the Committee reviewed the HERC parcel against the criteria matrix created by the design team and determined that the following positive attributes could be applied:*

### PARCEL CHARACTERISTICS

#### *Parcel Ownership and Cost*

- Site Ownership & Potential for Drawing on Other Funding Resources
- Size and Available Configuration
- 4 or more acres

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### *Environmental Risk*

- Well above Tsunami Area
- Well above Flood Zone
- Structural Soils – Load bearing for seismic concerns – buildings have been there since before the 1964 earthquake.

#### *Development Suitability*

- Gravity loading, well- draining soils, no standing water issues
- Site Slope – relatively flat, slight slope for positive drainage
- Compatible with Existing Zoning – Central Business District

#### *Utilities*

- Existing Utilities
- Water, redundancy (piped, plus well or room for water storage tank)
- Electric, with redundancy (room for generator)
- Natural Gas
- Communications

### COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS

#### *Community Location*

- Easy for the Public to Find, Access, Park
- Visible location that enhances Civic Identity

#### *Traffic and Access*

- Efficient access to major community collector/arterial roads for quick emerge

- *Low accident rate on adjacent roadways/intersections*
- *Located on corner lot with access to 2 streets*
- *Multiple site access options including entrances/exits for staff, visitors and vehicles/equipment*

#### *Security*

- *No adjacent raised structures (tall buildings, raised highways or viaducts)*
- *Lot configuration enables visible clear zone and security setbacks from nearby parcels and roadways*

*Negative Attributes or Unknowns that could be applied from the matrix to the HERC site are as follows:*

- *Wetlands*
- *Subsoil rock outcroppings, excavation expense – unknown*
- *Deep swale area at active creek*
- *Central to Fire Service Area – farther from the Spit*
- *Egress may be impeded onto main roads from traffic congestion or accidents without additional traffic aids*
- *Displaces groups that use existing facilities – recreation uses for the gym; Public Works maintenance personnel use the two-story building for office and storage space; Skateboard Park; access to the middle school, the basketball court and Special Olympics uses of the fenced in field area.*
- *Compatible with Adopted Plans – Unknown*
- *Concealed Areas adjacent to project - Unknown*
- *Not complimentary to adjacent and nearby land uses – Unknown*
- *Ability to locate impound storage so it is not visible or easily accessible – Unknown*

#### *Recommendation:*

*Approve the Homer Education & Recreation Center (HERC) parcel as the future site of the Combined Public Safety Building.*

#### **Recommendation:**

**Informational in Nature. No Action was Requested.**



## Seafarers Memorial Parking Expansion

**Project Description & Benefit:** This project would use materials from dredging the harbor to build up a parking lot between Seafarers Memorial and the east end of the nearby boardwalk complex. The additional parking will be a welcome improvement as it is often hard to find parking during peak summer months on this section of the Spit. The project has the added benefit of replenishing the beaches on the east side of the Spit and protecting infrastructure from erosion. The material will be placed on the beaches as part of the Army Corps of Engineers' dredging/disposal operations. Funding is needed to supplement hauling costs, compact material, cap with gravel and pave the lot. A Corps permit will be needed to accomplish this work.

**Plans & Progress:** The City has appropriated \$15,000 for the Homer Area Roads and Trails (HART) fund for engineering and permitting of this project completed in 2014. The dredged materials are scheduled to be placed in the lot by fall of 2014.

**Total Project Cost:** \$635,000

**Schedule:**

2014 (Design and Permitting): \$8,000

2014 (Dredged Material Placement by Corps): In kind

2015 (Construction): \$627,000

**Priority Level:** 1



cc added to the CIP on 9/22/14



This project would fill in, level and pave the grassy area pictured above between the Seafarer's Memorial and the nearby boardwalk.

**Proposed By: P&H  
Director and Port  
& Harbor Com-  
mission. P&H  
Commission #2  
priority.**





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(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

### Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2014  
SUBJECT: TOWN CENTER – A VITAL COMPONENT TO LINKING ALTERNATE TRAVEL  
ROUTES THROUGH THE CITY OF HOMER

---

Commissioner Lowney and MacCampbell expressed a desire for discussion on the last major green space in the center of town in regards to impending road construction planned for the future.

#### Recommendation:

Request staff to provide at a future meeting all approved plans on roads and the town center for the commission's through review and discussion.







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(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

### Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2014  
SUBJECT: OUTDATED SENIOR FITNESS COURSE – DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION  
ON DONATION TO WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY

---

Commissioner Lowney working with Angie Otteson, Keri Sythe, and Lynn Maslow are interested in establishing a fitness course around a nature trail behind the West Homer Elementary school. They would like the support of the commission in recommending the city donate this unused equipment.

#### Recommendation:

Make a motion to support the city donate the outdated and unused senior fitness course to West Homer Elementary School for use in their fitness course.





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## Memorandum

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2014  
SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL PARKS AND RECREATION CONVENTION

---

Commissioner Lowney has requested the commission to begin a discussion on changing the Annual Park Day event into a Parks and Recreation Convention held in Homer.

Some items to think about for the discussion is:

Does the commission agree that this is or would be a preferable thing to do?  
Will the commissioners all commit to working on this event or a portion annually?  
How will this be funded?

Some additional items to consider are:

1. Determining the reason to hold a convention in Homer each year in order to encourage funding
2. Consider the size of the group, who will attend this convention or who do you want to attend
3. Determine meeting dates. Avoid dates that coincide with other company or industry events or holidays. How many days will the convention last?
4. Planning a convention can take all year in order not to be too stressful or overburden organizers
5. Where will this convention take place?
6. This is going to take some support from the community too.

I have included some sample timelines and information on organizing a convention, conference or annual event.

### Recommendation:

Make a motion that the Commission wants to hold a convention and schedule planning to start for the next agenda.



# CONFERENCE WORK TIMELINE

TIMELINE	Date Completed
<b>14 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Select Conference Committee	
Select Conference site and date	
Receive information letter from site	
Prepare a realistic budget	
<b>13 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Set tentative theme	
Prepare proposal form that includes school affiliation and a brief annotation for the proposed session for the program booklet	
Set registration fees	
<b>12 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Distribute proposal form at this year's conference	
Begin contacting keynote speakers	
<b>9 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Select conference sessions	
If no proposals were submitted in some areas of interest, contact possible presenters	
Set conference schedule	
Send confirmations to all speakers	
Arrange for CEU credits	
<b>6 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Begin preparing registration brochure, listing information that a teacher can show to a principal to get funding to attend the conference	
Select menus for meal functions	
Determine table decorations	
<b>5 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Secure mailing labels	
Determine mail procedures and rates	
Print Conference flier	
<b>4 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Distribute conference flier with registration materials included	
Begin a registration file	
Send publicity to the media	

Arrange for entertainment at meals	
<b>3 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Secure AV needs from speakers	
Secure introducers for speakers	
Prepare CEU verification forms for conference	
Decide on the final agenda for large meetings and meal functions (Who will introduce, bring greetings, etc.?)	
Begin preparing the printed program using information submitted on the proposal form	
Design meal tickets and name badges	
<b>2 MONTHS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Send AV needs to hotel and AV committee person	
Order flowers for the head table	
Send room set-up forms to the hotel	
Determine head table seating for meals	
Prepare meal(s) programs	
Send preliminary meal guarantee to caterer	
Prepare evaluation forms for conference	
Send reminders to speakers of date, time, and room assignment	
<b>3 WEEKS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Assemble packets for conference	
<b>1 WEEK PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Confirm AV equipment	
Confirm room set-ups	
<b>3 DAYS PRIOR TO CONFERENCE</b>	
Give final guarantees to caterer for the number of meals to be served	
<b>CONFERENCE</b>	
Keep a file for all bills that are signed during the Conference	
Relax and enjoy it. You've done everything you could do to make it a success	
<b>AFTER THE CONFERENCE</b>	
Send letters of appreciation to speakers and to those who performed special services	
Assess evaluation forms and give to next year's committee	
Review all bills and pay ASAP	

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR**  
**FOR THE 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE**

<b><u>MEETING DATE</u></b>	<b><u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEM</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> FEBRUARY 20, 2014	LAND ALLOCATION PLAN REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
<input type="checkbox"/> MARCH 20, 2014	CEMETERY STATUS REPORT
<input type="checkbox"/> APRIL 17, 2014	SELECT SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH ESTABLISH PARK DAY EVENT DATE – COMMISSIONER
ATTENDANCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> MAY 15, 2014	PLANNING PARK DAY OR SIMILAR EVENT SPRING PARK AND/OR BEACHES WALK THROUGH
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 19, 2014	COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARK DAY OR SIMILAR EVENT INITIAL BUDGET REVIEW – WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION FOR 2015? THANK YOU ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PARK DAY
<input type="checkbox"/> JULY 17, 2014	NO MEETING SCHEDULED
<input type="checkbox"/> AUGUST 14, 2014	BUDGET REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY MANAGER & CITY COUNCIL
<input type="checkbox"/> SEPTEMBER 18, 2014	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; ELECTIONS; SELECT KHP CLEAN UP DAY BUDGET DISCUSSION
<input type="checkbox"/> OCTOBER 17, 2014	KAREN HORNADAY PARK CLEAN-UP REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE THANK YOU ADVERTISEMENT FOR 2 <sup>ND</sup> HALF OF THE YEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> NOVEMBER 20, 2014	STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW & PLANNING REVIEW OF KAREN HORNADAY MASTER PLAN & PROGRESS
DECEMBER 2014	NO MEETING SCHEDULED HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR**  
**FOR THE 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE**



**2014 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ATTENDANCE**

It is the goal of the Commission to have a member speak regularly to the City Council at council meetings. There is a special place on the council's agenda specifically for this. After Council approves the consent agenda and any scheduled visitors it is then time for staff reports, commission reports and borough reports. That is when you would stand and be recognized by the Mayor to approach and give a brief report on what the Commission is currently addressing, projects, events, etc. **A commissioner is scheduled to speak and has a choice at which council meeting they will attend. It is only required to attend one meeting during the month that you are assigned.** However, if your schedule permits please feel free to attend both meetings. Remember you cannot be heard if you do not speak.

The following Meeting Dates for City Council for 2014 is as follows:

Commissioner Archibald will attend as needed depending on his work schedule.

January 13, 27 2014	<u>Commissioner Steffy , Commissioner Brann</u>
February 10, 24 2014	<u>Commissioner Lillibridge, Commissioner Steffy</u>
March 10, 24 2014	<u>Commissioner Lowney</u>
April 14, 28 2014	<u>Commissioner MacCampbell, Commissioner Steffy</u>
May 12, 27 (Tues)	<u>Commissioner Brann, Commissioner Steffy</u>
June 9, 23 2014	_____
July 21 2014	_____ Commissioner Roedl _____
August 11, 25 2014	_____
September 8, 22 2014	<u>Commissioner Lowney</u> _____
October 13, 27 2014	<u>Commissioner Steffy, Commissioner Archibald</u>
November 24, 2014	<u>Commissioner Lillibridge</u> _____
December 8, 2014	Commissioner MacCampbell

Please review and if you will be unable to make the meeting you are tentatively scheduled for please discuss.

PLEASE NOTE: When additional commissioners are appointed the proposed schedule above will reflect those added commissioners.





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## Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

September 25, 2014

Mari Gallion  
Public Involvement Planner  
DOWL HKM  
4041 B Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
*Delivered electronically*

Ms. Gallion,

I am writing as a follow up to the email you received from Joe Meehan discussing the plans for improvements at the Baycrest Overlook. As Joe mentioned, planning for improvements to this overlook have been a collaborative effort between Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge, Homer Chamber of Commerce, City of Homer, and other community partners. As a pull out along the Sterling Highway Scenic Byway, and gateway to the City of Homer, visitors and residents frequently stop at Baycrest Overlook to take pictures, use the restroom, enjoy a picnic lunch or take in the breathtaking vista that spans from Kachemak Bay to Cook Inlet.

Improvements to the Baycrest Overlook have been on the City of Homer's Capital Improvement Plan since 2013. This project is a priority for the City and community, as demonstrated by the many community and agency partners involved. Incorporating improvements to the park such as re-paving, ADA accessibility improvements, striping, curbs, concrete planters, fencing and interpretive signage would dovetail with the work that is being proposed for Sterling Highway Milepost 157-169. I hope you are able to consider these much needed upgrades in the project. Baycrest Overlook is managed much like a park by the City on land leased from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The City would welcome a partnership to make this scenic stop on the Sterling Highway more accessible, user friendly and informative.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any manner.

Sincerely,

Walt Wrede  
City Manager, Homer

Enc: Baycrest Overlook Gateway Project 2014-2019 CIP write-up

Cc: Tom Schmid, P.E. Project Manager Sterling Highway Milepost 1570169  
Joe Meehan, Statewide Program Coordinator ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation



## Baycrest Overlook Gateway Project

---

**Project Description & Benefit:** The Homer Public Arts Committee has designated the Baycrest Hill Overlook as one of the major elements of the Gateway Project, which entails enhancing visitor and resident experiences at the entrances to Homer. The other Gateways are the Homer Airport and the Homer Port.

Everyone who has driven to Homer remembers the first time they came around the corner on the Sterling Highway and saw the breathtaking panorama of Kachemak Bay. For many that was the same moment they made the decision to become part of this diverse, eclectic, and energetic community. In the 1990s visionaries at Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities constructed the current pullout during the Sterling Highway reconstruction effort. However, the current site does not adequately meet the goals of the Gateway Program.

Improving the landscaping and comfort of Baycrest Overlook will inspire locals and visitors and enhance this phenomenal setting. Interpretive signage will tell the story of Homer and the surrounding communities and highlight the phenomenal natural resources of Kachemak Bay. Improvements to the overlook will spur economic development, welcoming everyone and encouraging commerce and trade in a community dedicated to unique and natural quality of life experiences.

**Plans & Progress:** The first Gateway Project was undertaken in 2009. A collaborative effort with the City of Homer Public Arts Committee, City of Homer Airport Manager, City of Homer Public Works Director, Alaska State Parks, National Park Service, Kachemak Research Reserve and U.S. Fish and Wildlife created a beautiful diorama highlighting the wealth of public and private resources available to everyone who comes to Kachemak Bay.

This group plus representatives from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Transportation, Pratt Museum, Homer Chamber of Commerce, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society and Homer Garden Club have come together to work on the Baycrest Overlook Gateway Project.

The State and the City of Homer spent \$6,000 in 2013 to produce the Baycrest Overlook Interpretive Plan. The Plan included design, development, and locations for welcome and interpretive signage and was officially adopted by Council in 2013. Public Arts Committee meetings on the project are ongoing and a public comment meeting was held on September 18, 2012.

**The project will consist of three phases:**

1. Interpretive signage, benches and picnic areas
2. Enhanced landscaping
3. New restrooms and paving upgrades.

**Total Project Cost:** \$256,000

2012 (Design): \$6,000

2014 (Construction): \$250,000

Signage/Benches: \$100,000

Landscaping: \$75,000;

Restrooms and Paving: \$75,000



## Renee Krause

---

**From:** Jo Johnson  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 9:55 AM  
**To:** Renee Krause  
**Subject:** FW: for the Parks and Rec Commission

Renee,  
Please distribute to P&R.

*Jo Johnson*

---

**From:** Jo Johnson  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 9:53 AM  
**To:** 'Lani Raymond'  
**Subject:** RE: for the Parks and Rec Commission

Hi Lani,  
If you want to send something to the Parks & Rec Commission please send it to Renee Krause – [rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us)  
Renee is the clerk who prepares their packets and records their meetings.

I will forward this email to Renee.

Thank you,

*Jo Johnson*  
*City Clerk*

---

**From:** Lani Raymond [<mailto:lanir67@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 10, 2014 8:37 AM  
**To:** Jo Johnson  
**Subject:** for the Parks and Rec Commission

Jo,  
Would you please send a copy of this email to the Parks and Rec. Commission?

(Is there any way that I can just email them myself? I hate to keep asking you to do this sort of thing.)

Lani Raymond

Maybe people would be interested that Kachemak Bay was selected by USA TODAY birding experts to be one of the 20 best birding locations in our country! They solicited votes for the top ten but I'm guessing we didn't win. However being in the top 20 is wonderful!!



Here's the link and my post to the birders if you're interested.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/destinations/2014/11/06/10best-readers-choice-best-birdwatching-nominees/18122659/>

Subject: USA TODAY: 10Best: Best Birdwatching nominees

From USA TODAY 10Best: Best Birdwatching nominees For many nature-loving travelers in the USA, birdwatching is a favored pastime. Our 20 nominees for the USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice award for Best Birdwatching were selected by a panel of birdwatching experts for their diversity, natural beauty, conservation importance and convenience, and now it's your turn to help choose the winners. You can vote for your favorite destination once per day until voting ends on Nov. 10 at noon ET. Click here to vote, or visit [10Best.com/awards/travel](http://10Best.com/awards/travel).

The full list of nominees is as follows:

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas  
Big Bend, Texas  
Bosque del Apache, N.M.  
Cape May, N.J.  
Central Park, N.Y.  
Dauphin Island, Ala.  
Dry Tortugas, Fla.  
Everglades, Fla.  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Pa.  
Hawk Ridge, Minn.  
KACHEMAK BAY, ALASKA (!!!!)  
Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas  
Machias Seal Island, Maine  
Magee Marsh, Ohio  
Monterey Bay, Calif.  
Parker River, Mass.  
Platte River Valley, Neb.  
Point Reyes National Seashore, Calif.  
Sanibel Island, Fla.  
Southeastern, Ariz.

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## Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
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[mayor@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:mayor@ci.homer.ak.us)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

### Memorandum 14-165

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR  
DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2014  
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CATRIONA REYNOLDS TO THE PERMANENT FUND COMMITTEE AND REAPPOINTMENT OF DEB LOWNEY TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

---

Councilmember Catriona Reynolds is appointed to the Permanent Fund Committee to fill the seat vacated by Councilmember Howard. Her appointment will expire with office.

Deb Lowney is reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission with a term to expire October 31, 2017.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Confirm the appointment of Catriona Reynolds to the Permanent Fund Committee and reappointment of Deb Lowney to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Fiscal Note: N/A



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October 28, 2014

Deb Lowney  
PO Box 1445  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Deb,

Congratulations! Council confirmed/approved your re- appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission during their Regular Meeting of October 27, 2014, via Memorandum 14-165.

Your 2014 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is currently on file with the City Clerk's Office.

Thank you for your willingness to continue serving the City of Homer on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. There certainly are exciting times ahead.

Your term will expire October 31, 2017.

Cordially,

Mary E. Wythe, Mayor

Enc: Memorandum 14-165  
Certificate of Appointment

Cc: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

# City of Homer

Homer, Alaska

## Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings

Be It Known That

*Deb Lowney*

Has been reappointed to

serve as

**"Commissioner"**

on the

**"Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission"**

*This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community and your willingness to serve your fellow man.*

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand  
this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.*



*Mary E Wythe*  
MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

*Jo Johnson*  
JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK





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(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum

TO: MAYOR WYTHER AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
THRU: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2014  
SUBJECT: BEACH POLICY REVIEW TASK FORCE FOR BISHOP'S BEACH

---

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission held a worksession on October 16, 2014 and discussed what remediation could be implemented to address the increase in unlawful behavior on the beach; to the protected habitat of Beluga Slough and destruction to private property.

Included is a memorandum from staff on the outcome of that worksession and minutes of the discussion from the follow-up special meeting held on November 6, 2014 that resulted in the following recommendation:

Council to form a Task Force comprised of 7 members from the following:

One member of Council

Chief of Police or Department representative

One member from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

One member that is a resident or property owner from the area of Bishop's beach

One member that is a business owner in Old Town part of Homer

One member that is a non-resident of the area, can live outside of Homer

and a member of the public that is an ornithologist or bird enthusiast

Recommendation and amendments from the Task Force are to be submitted no later than May 1, 2015.

Recommendation: Approve the request to form a Task Force to review and Update the Beach Policy as it addresses the current issues at Bishops Beach and similar or like areas in Homer.

Excerpt of the November 6, 2014 minutes from the Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission:

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum from Deputy City Planner re: Bishops Beach Issues

Ms. Engebretsen provided a brief direction and outcome that came from the worksession held on October 16, 2014. She recommended that they can work on this through the commission, hold a couple of public hearings on proposed changes to the Beach Policy or the commission could recommend establishing a committee or task force to work on the issues for a few months and submit the recommendations to the Commission which could then forward the recommended changes to Council for approval.

Commissioner Lowney moved that they recommend working on the changes to the Beach Policy to address issues happening at Bishops Beach. She did not want to push the issue around but to deal with it. She also wanted to strike the Improve lighting from the recommendations in the memorandum. Commissioner Lillibridge seconded that motion.

Commissioner Brann supported that direction but wanted to form a task force to come up with recommendations for Bishops Beach, he believed it was the critical area, and maybe add Mariner Park since there are some problems there too.

Commissioner MacCampbell wanted to include Mud Bay and felt that some of the solutions for Bishops Beach would address Mud Bay too.

Commissioner Lowney agreed with those statements but in her opinion Mud Bay was not as critical. Commissioner Archibald advocated for reviewing the whole Beach Policy and reviewing all the areas that required it especially those sections that would directly affect Bishops Beach, and other beaches.

Chair Steffy liked the idea of reviewing the whole policy but focusing on the Bishops Beach area. He inquired if they needed a formal motion.

There was direction from staff that the commission needs to determine exactly what they want the task force to do and who they want on the task force in order to provide Council with a good reason for creation of a task force.

The commissioners discussed at length the pros and cons of reviewing and changing specific areas of the Beach Policy as it effects Bishops Beach, including additional areas that have similar uses and problems or the whole policy.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE – MOVED TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND UPDATE THE BEACH POLICY TO ADDRESS ISSUES THAT AFFECT BISHOPS BEACH.

There was additional discussion on various aspects for reasons not to review the whole policy and why the focus should be only on Bishops Beach with a caveat of addressing vehicular use on additional beaches such as Mariner Park and along the spit. The concern was if you blocked vehicles from Bishops Beach they are going to have problems on other beaches. It was remarked that they did not want to become Southcentral Alaska Recreational Area for Off Road vehicles. Further

clarification was attempted by the Chair on the motion to create the task force and what they were tasked to do. There was still hesitation from the commission on including the whole beach policy or just sections that applied to the issues at Bishops Beach.

Commissioner Lillibridge advocated for collecting data on the vehicular use of the beach. She reported her experience with city parks and beaches in Florida on a recent vacation. She also noted that people in Homer may enjoy their free style of living but when those lifestyles infringe upon others then it is time to restrict the uses.

Commissioner Archibald stated that he knows if they close Bishops Beach then those people will go to other areas and he doesn't want that to happen.

Commissioner MacCampbell pointed out that there are limited accesses to the beaches but that they must protect that berm. He went on to cite the accesses in Ninilchik, Whiskey Gulch, Anchor Point and sending the behaviors up the road.

Commissioner Lowney further advocated on points in dealing with one beach at a time and that they can wait to address the next areas.

Commissioner Brann commented on the historical discussions that took place in the earlier Beach Committees regarding pedestrian priority and the value establishing then the absolute demarcation for vehicles.

Further comments and responses agreed with the eventual follow-up of the other beaches, the negative NO signage in other cities, giving the police department something that they can enforce, the benefits that the habitat provides for users who use the beach appropriately. Additional examples of instances where inappropriate behavior was conducted alongside lawful behavior was given by commissioners.

STEFFY/BRANN – MOVED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE CONCERNS BROUGHT TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE INCREASED ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES ON BISHOPS BEACH AND THE IMPACT ON THE PEOPLE OF HOMER THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE BEACH POLICY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES FOR BISHOPS BEACH AND LIKE OR SIMILAR AREAS.

Commissioner Lillibridge asked if Chief Robl could respond in regards to the motion and the issues that have been brought up. She wanted the wording of the motion to be specific to Homer. Chair Steffy responded regarding enforcement. Staff recommended passing the motion then they can discuss framing what they want the task force to accomplish and the time frame.

Commissioner Lillibridge requested the motion to be read back from the clerk. Due to all the changes and suggestions the clerk was unable to read the motion. Ms. Krause stated that the commission wanted the Beach Policies amended to address the issues at Bishops Beach. There were commissioners who also wanted to amend the policies to cover additional areas where the same activities occur. Ms. Krause then stated the motion could be simplified to read as follows:

MOVED TO REQUEST COUNCIL FORM A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE BEACH POLICY AS IT APPLIES TO THE ISSUES AT BISHOPS BEACH AND LIKE OR SIMILAR AREAS OR PLACES.

Chair Steffy and Commissioner Archibald moved and seconded that motion as stated by staff.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. LILLIBRIDGE, BRANN, STEFFY, MACCAMPBELL, LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD.

Motion carried.

The Commissioners agreed that they would like to see a member of council, the Chief of Police or his representative, a Parks and Recreation commissioner, a resident or adjacent property owner, a business owner from Old Town area of Homer, a birder, and a non-resident user on the task force.

The commission would like to have the Task Force bring back recommendations and amendments by or before May 10, 2015. They can invite a member of the US Fish and Wildlife and the Research Reserve as expert testimony.

There was additional discussion regarding the task force would not report to the commission but to the Council. The commission would be represented by the Commissioner appointed to the Task Force.





## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

[clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum

TO: MAYOR WYTHE AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
THRU: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2014  
SUBJECT: 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE

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The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission reviewed the 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule at a Special Meeting on November 6, 2014 and approved the schedule as presented in the memorandum from the City Clerk.

Following is the excerpt of the minutes reflecting the action of commission:

### *NEW BUSINESS*

*A. Memorandum from the City Clerk re: 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule*

*Chair Steffy stated he would entertain a motion approving the schedule.*

*MACCAMPBELL/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2015 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE CITY CLERK.*

*There was no discussion.*

*VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, MACCAMPBELL, STEFFY, BRANN, LILLIBRIDGE AND ARCHIBALD*

*Motion carried.*

Recommendation:

Informational in nature. No action requested.





